



## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN (PIP)**

### **Air Quality Bureau Air Permit Application**

Version 06.02.21

Date: December 27, 2021, revised 1/13/2022

Applicant: El Paso Electric Company

Facility Name: Rio Grande Generating Station

Air Quality Permit Application Number: P127-R4

Location: Approximately 2.5 miles east-southeast of Sunland Park, Dona Ana County, New Mexico

Latitude: 31.804833

Longitude: -106.547389

#### **1. Overview of Air Quality Bureau's plan of action for addressing the community's needs and concerns for processing Air Quality Permit Applications:**

The New Mexico Environment Department (Department), Air Quality Bureau (AQB) developed this Public Involvement Plan (PIP) for the processing of air quality permit applications in accordance with the requirements at 20.2.70 NMAC (as applicable) for this facility. This air quality regulation does require public participation outreach throughout different stages of the permitting process. The AQB will meet the public participation requirements by following this PIP, which includes all applicable policy, regulatory and statutory public participation requirements.

In developing this PIP, community participation needs for this permitting action were assessed to ensure appropriate promotion of public outreach by identifying whether there is a combination of environmental and demographic factors (i.e., low income community, minority community, limited English proficiency individuals, Linguistically Isolated Households, etc.) that may impact public participation. This assessment identifies community outreach needs and provides for public access opportunities above and beyond statutorily mandated requirements, and underscores the provision of adequate public access to information about this permit application.

As much as possible, public participation and informational activities related to this permit application will be held within the regulatory timelines outlined below.

- a. AQB regulations at 20.2.70 NMAC require that the application must be ruled complete or incomplete no more than 60 days after receipt. The AQB will publish a public notice for this application in a newspaper of general circulation in the area closest to the location of the facility, when the draft permit is issued for comment. See section 4.c below for more information.

The public notice contains a paragraph in Spanish directing Spanish speaking interested parties to call the AQB at (505) 372-8373 to speak to Spanish speaking staff for additional information regarding this permitting action.

- b. Normally the AQB would provide a copy of the public notice, the air quality permit application, and this PIP to the Las Cruces NMED field office, but due to current Covid-19 access restrictions for protection of both public employees and the protection of the general public these materials are instead available on the NMED website (see section 2.a).

- c. AQB regulations require that the public notice be sent to interested parties maintained on a mailing list. See Section 4.b below for more information.
- d. AQB regulations require that the public notice be sent to the “affected programs” as defined at 20.2.70 NMAC. See Section 4.e below for more information.
- e. In accordance with the evaluation of the site location and associated demographics, the public notice shall be published in both, English and Spanish.
- f. Public notice shall be followed by a 30-day public comment period that starts on the day that the notice is published in the newspaper. See Section 4.g below for details.
- g. AQB regulations require that the permit must be issued, issued subject to conditions, or denied within eighteen (18) months after the department deems the application administratively complete.

**2. Contact list of AQB staff with phone numbers and email addresses:**

**a. AQB contact for questions about this application or PIP (included in public notices and outreach materials):**

Urshula Bajracharya  
New Mexico Environment Department  
Air Quality Bureau  
525 Camino de los Marquez, Suite 1  
Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87505  
505-629-8883  
[Urshula.Bajracharya@state.nm.us](mailto:Urshula.Bajracharya@state.nm.us)

Electronic copies will be available at the following link, which will be included in public notices and outreach materials as appropriate: <https://www.env.nm.gov/air-quality/permitting-section-home-page/>

**b. Non-English Language Speaker Assistance and Accommodations**

The AQB may hold public meetings, open houses, stakeholder meetings, and/or a formal hearing depending on the interest in the application. Language assistance services may be arranged for translation of documents for meetings, for translators during meetings and for obtaining services for persons with disabilities. A phone-based interpretation service may be available for languages other than English.

**3. Description of the community/stakeholder groups:**

To provide for adequate public participation opportunities and meaningful involvement of persons regarding this permit application and to address potential or existing environmental justice areas, the affected communities must first be identified, informed about proposed environmental actions affecting the community, and invited to share their comments and concerns. The EJSCREEN tool developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) helps identify communities that are low income and minority populations that may benefit from a variety of approaches for notification and outreach communication.

Using the default 4 mile radius from the facility, the results of the EJScreen ACS Summary Report (attached) are listed in the table below. [<https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/>]

Population and Income Data			
Total Population:	93,628	Per capita income of community (2014-2018):	\$28,220
People of Color Population, %:	80	US Per Capita Income*:	\$34,103
Total number of households:	33,401	Total Number (and Percent) of Linguistically Isolated Households:	8,453 (25%)

\*US Per Capita Income 2015-2019; <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/INC910219>

Population by Race, %		Population by Ability to Speak English, %	
White	79	Speak Only English	33
Black	1	Non-English at Home	67
American Indian	0	Speak English "very well"	33
Asian	3	Speak English "well"	21
Pacific Islander	0	Speak English "not well"	8
Some Other Race	14	Speak English "not at all"	5
Two or More Races	2	Speak English "less than very well"	34

Linguistically Isolated Household Details, %		List other Languages (if applicable)
Speak Spanish	93	////////////////////
Speak Other Indo-European Languages	2	
Speak Asian Pacific Island Languages	4	
Speak Other Languages	1	

In addition, the following community or stakeholder groups have been identified: International Boundary and Water Commission United States and Mexico, Sunland Park Colonias.

History of public involvement in air permitting during the last 10 years: Yes (NSR PSD Permit 1554M1).

It is important for the AQB to incorporate the linguistic and communication needs of this community when conducting public outreach and participation activities. To help accomplish this, the AQB will provide information in Spanish, and in English, in public comment notices, public meeting notices (if applicable), and other announcements (radio broadcasts, brochures, signs, postcards, etc.) and strive to make public participation efforts as inclusive as possible within AQB budget and time limitations.

Under normal circumstances the Las Cruces NMED Field Office would serve as an access area for the AQB to leave hard copies of important documents and information about how to comment on this permit application, but due to Covid-19 restrictions to protect both the general public and public employees, materials will not be available in hard copy, but can be found on the AQB webpage (see Section 2.a above).

#### 4. Detailed actions and outreach activities the AQB Permitting Section will take to reach the affected public:

##### a. Overview

Based on the demographics report discussed in the PIP, the history of public involvement at the facility and the facility background, basic information about public involvement opportunities will be in both English and Spanish. This information will include how to request materials in Spanish or to

Speak with AQB staff through an interpreter. Further details about public participation for this activity are outlined below.

**The AQB maintains information regarding this air quality permit application at the following locations:**

- i. **On the Air Quality Bureau website, see Section 2.a above. [Due to Covid-19 restrictions materials will not be available at ii and iii below but will be available on the website]:**
- ii. **At the District Office listed in Section 1.b above.**
- iii. **At the main office location:**  
New Mexico Environment Department  
Air Quality Bureau  
525 Camino de los Marquez, Suite 1  
Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87505

**b. Postal Mailing or E-Mailing of Notices to Persons on the Facility-Specific Mailing List**

AQB regulations require notification to persons who have expressed interest in applications. The AQB maintains a mailing list that includes individuals interested in permit applications from particular facilities or geographic areas. Notifications may be sent through physical mail and/or an email.

The list also includes addresses of states, local air pollution control programs, and Indian tribes and pueblos, that are within 50 miles of the source.

**c. Notices in the State Newspaper and Local Newspapers**

The public notice for this permit application will be published in English in the Legal Section of the Las Cruces Sun newspaper.

In addition, it will be published in Spanish in the Legal Section of the Las Cruces Sun newspaper.

Websites for these publications are listed below:

Las Cruces, NM/Las Cruces Sun News: English: <http://www.lcsun-news.com/>

**d. Mailing to the Governor or President of Indian Tribes, Pueblos or Nations**

AQB regulations and the evaluation of the facility location and associated demographics, require notification to Tribes, Pueblos or Nations about this permit application for facilities located within a specified distance.

Email notification will be sent to the contacts at the Tribes, Pueblos and/or Nations listed below:

1. Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo: [ECruz@YDSP-NSN.gov](mailto:ECruz@YDSP-NSN.gov)

**e. Affected Local, State, or Federal Government Agencies, and Active Land Grants**

AQB regulations require identifying and notifying local, state or federal government agencies about this permit application.

The following affected Local, State, or Federal Government Agencies will be notified by email:

1. US EPA Region VI: Elizabeth (Mary) Layton at [r6airpermits@epa.gov](mailto:r6airpermits@epa.gov) & [layton.mary@epa.gov](mailto:layton.mary@epa.gov)
2. State of Texas
3. Sunland Park, Julia Brown City Manager [julia.brown@sunlandpark-nm.gov](mailto:julia.brown@sunlandpark-nm.gov). The Sunland Park is a designated Colonias.

The NM Atlas map shows Santa Teresa land grant within the 4-mile radius circle. There are no contact information available for this land grant.

**f. Public Meeting Notices, Public Comment Notices, and Other Notices**

AQB may hold public meetings, open houses, stakeholder meetings, and/or a formal hearing depending on the interest in the application. Based on historical information and the results of the initial screening, there is no public meeting planned at this time for this permit application. If it is determined that a public meeting will be required, notice will be provided to the community as follows:

- 1) Via a newspaper of general circulation in the area closest to the location of the facility.
- 2) Locations commonly frequented by the general public, such as a nearby post office, public library, or city hall.
- 3) All persons and organizations that have expressed interest and are on a list maintained by AQB.
- 4) Via a public service announcement to at least one radio or television station which serves the municipality or county in which the source is or is proposed to be located.
- 5) The notices will be translated for non-English speaking participants, if required.
- 6) The notices will include information for requesting accommodations for those with disabilities as listed in item 2b above.

AQB will locate an appropriate venue based on the availability to the community to access the meeting, and the specific needs of the affected community (e.g. size of community, community locations, impacts, etc.).

AQB may reschedule the meeting due to inclement weather. If rescheduled, AQB will provide as much advance notice as possible and reschedule for an appropriate time and date.

Meetings will be scheduled to make them as accessible and user-friendly as practical, considering work schedules, dinner hours and other community commitments. To the extent possible, the meeting will be held at a location that is local and convenient, and meet American with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. In addition, whenever practical and appropriate, translators for limited-English speaking communities, or assistance for hearing-impaired individuals may be available. Information in public notices for a public meeting will adhere to AQB regulations, statutes and policies.

**g. Public Comment Periods**

AQB regulations require that thirty (30) days shall be provided for public and affected program comment on the draft permit.

The PIP has been reviewed and approved by the AQB Bureau Chief.

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For Liz Bisbey-Kuehn  
Bureau Chief  
Air Quality Bureau

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Date approved

Attachments: EJSCREEN Printout

Location: User-specified point center at 31.804833, -106.547389

Ring (buffer): 4-miles radius

Description: Rio Grande Generating

Summary of ACS Estimates		2014 - 2018	
Population		93,628	
Population Density (per sq. mile)		2,539	
People of Color Population		75,276	
% People of Color Population		80%	
Households		33,401	
Housing Units		37,720	
Housing Units Built Before 1950		2,065	
Per Capita Income		28,220	
Land Area (sq. miles) (Source: SF1)		36.88	
% Land Area		99%	
Water Area (sq. miles) (Source: SF1)		0.35	
% Water Area		1%	
		2014 - 2018 ACS Estimates	Percent MOE (±)
<b>Population by Race</b>			
Total		93,628	100% 945
Population Reporting One Race		91,461	98% 2,876
White		73,699	79% 945
Black		1,343	1% 214
American Indian		441	0% 123
Asian		2,496	3% 269
Pacific Islander		416	0% 455
Some Other Race		13,066	14% 870
Population Reporting Two or More Races		2,167	2% 347
Total Hispanic Population		69,916	75% 963
Total Non-Hispanic Population		23,712	
White Alone		18,351	20% 366
Black Alone		1,209	1% 214
American Indian Alone		249	0% 104
Non-Hispanic Asian Alone		2,366	3% 269
Pacific Islander Alone		416	0% 455
Other Race Alone		101	0% 95
Two or More Races Alone		1,019	1% 347
<b>Population by Sex</b>			
Male		46,164	49% 517
Female		47,464	51% 545
<b>Population by Age</b>			
Age 0-4		6,624	7% 311
Age 0-17		23,273	25% 469
Age 18+		70,354	75% 588
Age 65+		12,967	14% 191

**Data Note:** Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race.

N/A means not available. **Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2014 - 2018

Location: User-specified point center at 31.804833, -106.547389

Ring (buffer): 4-miles radius

Description: Rio Grande Generating

	2014 - 2018 ACS Estimates	Percent	MOE (±)
<b>Population 25+ by Educational Attainment</b>			
Total	59,522	100%	509
Less than 9th Grade	5,714	10%	260
9th - 12th Grade, No Diploma	3,947	7%	168
High School Graduate	10,189	17%	214
Some College, No Degree	15,929	27%	295
Associate Degree	4,108	7%	171
Bachelor's Degree or more	23,743	40%	291
<b>Population Age 5+ Years by Ability to Speak English</b>			
Total	87,003	100%	748
Speak only English	29,057	33%	441
Non-English at Home <sup>1+2+3+4</sup>	57,946	67%	762
<sup>1</sup> Speak English "very well"	28,671	33%	683
<sup>2</sup> Speak English "well"	18,086	21%	674
<sup>3</sup> Speak English "not well"	6,946	8%	332
<sup>4</sup> Speak English "not at all"	4,243	5%	250
<sup>3+4</sup> Speak English "less than well"	11,189	13%	344
<sup>2+3+4</sup> Speak English "less than very well"	29,275	34%	729
<b>Linguistically Isolated Households*</b>			
Total	8,453	100%	219
Speak Spanish	7,828	93%	195
Speak Other Indo-European Languages	190	2%	98
Speak Asian-Pacific Island Languages	345	4%	81
Speak Other Languages	90	1%	58
<b>Households by Household Income</b>			
Household Income Base	33,401	100%	230
< \$15,000	5,235	16%	176
\$15,000 - \$25,000	4,304	13%	195
\$25,000 - \$50,000	7,235	22%	204
\$50,000 - \$75,000	5,679	17%	186
\$75,000 +	10,948	33%	221
<b>Occupied Housing Units by Tenure</b>			
Total	33,401	100%	230
Owner Occupied	17,120	51%	244
Renter Occupied	16,281	49%	219
<b>Employed Population Age 16+ Years</b>			
Total	72,866	100%	604
In Labor Force	45,888	63%	452
Civilian Unemployed in Labor Force	2,907	4%	140
Not In Labor Force	26,978	37%	568

**Data Note:** Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race.

N/A means not available. **Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS)

\*Households in which no one 14 and over speaks English "very well" or speaks English only.

Location: User-specified point center at 31.804833, -106.547389

Ring (buffer): 4-miles radius

Description: Rio Grande Generating

	2014 - 2018 ACS Estimates	Percent	MOE (±)
<b>Population by Language Spoken at Home*</b>			
Total (persons age 5 and above)	88,960	100%	952
English	29,657	33%	648
Spanish	55,507	62%	900
French	115	0%	160
French Creole	N/A	N/A	N/A
Italian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Portuguese	N/A	N/A	N/A
German	601	1%	401
Yiddish	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other West Germanic	N/A	N/A	N/A
Scandinavian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Greek	N/A	N/A	N/A
Russian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Polish	N/A	N/A	N/A
Serbo-Croatian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Slavic	N/A	N/A	N/A
Armenian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Persian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gujarathi	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hindi	N/A	N/A	N/A
Urdu	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Indic	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Indo-European	575	1%	174
Chinese	549	1%	207
Japanese	N/A	N/A	N/A
Korean	285	0%	197
Mon-Khmer, Cambodian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hmong	N/A	N/A	N/A
Thai	N/A	N/A	N/A
Laotian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Vietnamese	219	0%	162
Other Asian	301	0%	100
Tagalog	177	0%	100
Other Pacific Island	N/A	N/A	N/A
Navajo	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Native American	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hungarian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Arabic	488	1%	120
Hebrew	N/A	N/A	N/A
African	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other and non-specified	302	0%	254
Total Non-English	59,303	67%	1,152

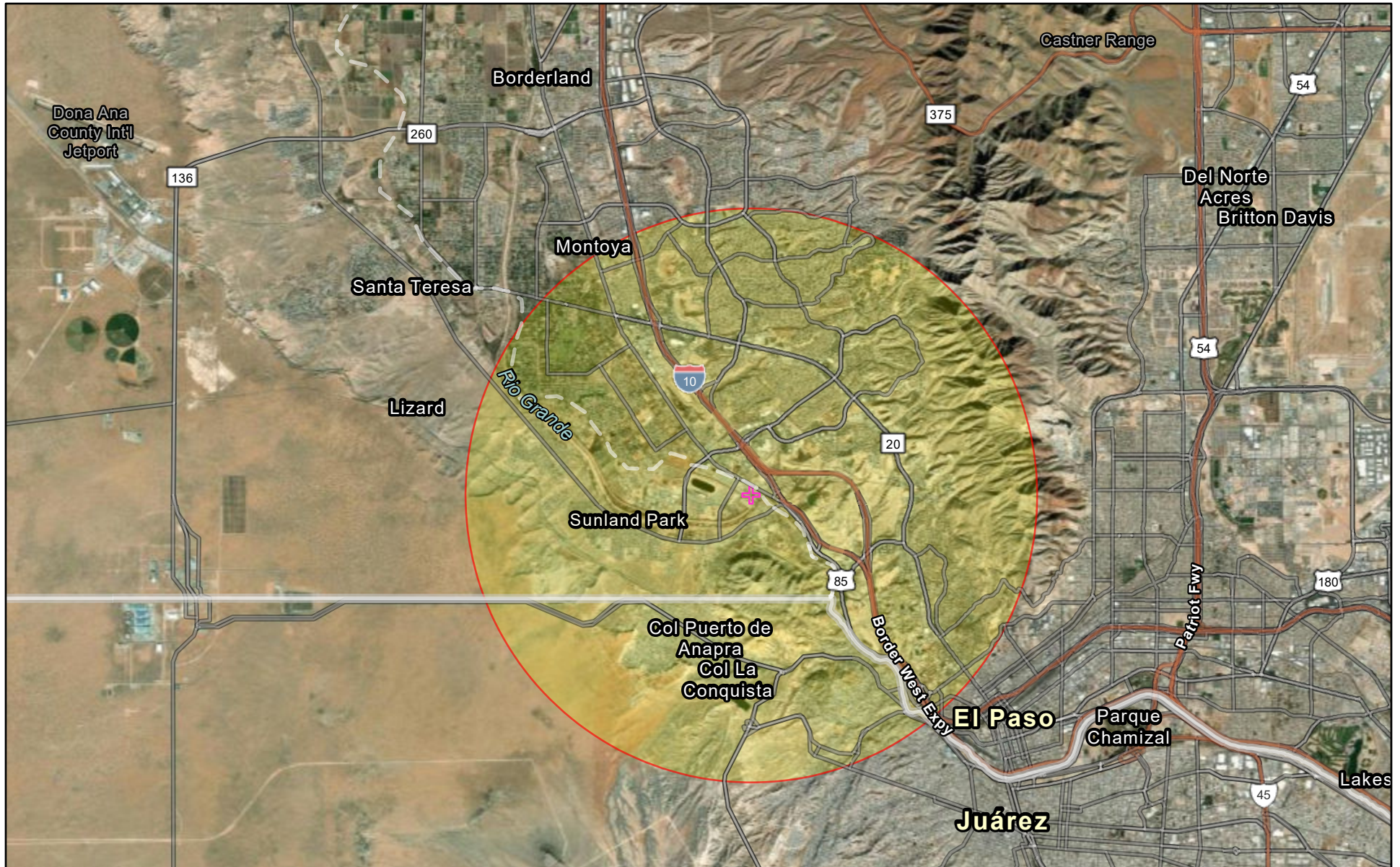
**Data Note:** Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race.

N/A means not available. **Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2014 - 2018.

\*Population by Language Spoken at Home is available at the census tract summary level and up.



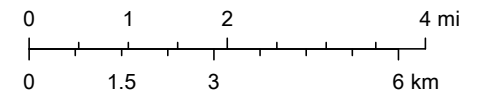
# Rio Grande Generating



12/27/2021

✚ Rio Grande Generating

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Earthstar Geographics, City of El Paso, Texas Parks & Wildlife, CONANP,



- ▶ Hazardous Waste Facilities
- ▶ Landfills
- ▶ Petroleum Storage Tanks
- ▶ Leaking Tank Sites
- ▶ NPDES Permits
- ▶ Water Quality Stations
- ▶ Nonpoint Source Program
- ▶ Impaired Waters
- ▶ Assessed Waters
- ▶ National Hydrography Dataset
- ▶ COVID Wastewater
- ▶ COVID-19 OSHA Data
- ▶ Watershed Boundary Dataset
- ▶ Aquifer Sensitivity
- ▶ National Land Cover Database
- ▶ USGS Stream Gages
- ▶ Legislative Boundaries
- ▶ Places
- ▼ Colonias
- Colonias
  - ☒ Colonias
- ▼ Tribal Lands
- Tribal Lands
  - ☒ Tribal Lands
    - ☒ Reservation
    - ☒ Trust
- ▶ Mount Taylor
- ▼ Land Grants
- Land Grants
  - ☒ Land Grants

